

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/881,648

Examiner

Michael P Nghiem

Applicant(s)

BUTLER, NEAL R.

Art Unit

2863

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 07 September 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-9,11-20 and 22-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given by Mr. James Morris during a telephone interview on November 16, 2004.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Replace Claim 1 with the following:

-- 1. Apparatus comprising:

a first sensor of an array of sensors to detect radiation and to output a first image signal based on the radiation detected by the first sensor; and

offset correction circuitry to compensate errors in at least the first image signal and to output at least a corrected first image signal,

wherein the offset correction circuitry includes means for providing at least one time-varying compensation signal that is added to the first image signal to generate the corrected first image signal; [[and]]

wherein the apparatus comprises a plurality of sensors including the first sensor, the plurality of sensors outputting respective image signals based on the radiation detected by each sensor of the plurality of sensors, and

wherein the means for providing at least one time-varying compensation signal includes means for providing, a different time-varying compensation signal for each of at least two sensors of the array of sensors. --

Replace Claim 9 with the following:

-- 9. A method for compensating errors in a first image signal generated by a first sensor of an array of sensors in response to radiation detected by the first sensor, comprising a step of:

a) adding a time-varying compensation signal to the first image signal; [[and]]
wherein a plurality of sensors including the first sensor generate respective image signals including the first signal in response to radiation detected by each sensor of the plurality of sensors, and

wherein the act a) includes an act of:
adding a different time-varying compensation signal to each of at least two respective image signals of at least two sensors of the array of sensors. --

Replace Claim 19 with the following:

-- 19. An apparatus, comprising:

a first sensor of an array of sensors adapted to generate a first image signal in response to radiation detected by the first sensor; and

at least one signal generator configured to add a first time-varying compensation signal to the first image signal so as to provide an adjusted first image signal; and

a plurality of sensors including the first sensor, the plurality of sensors adapted to generate respective image signals including the first signal in response to radiation detected by each sensor of the plurality of sensors,

wherein the at least one signal generator is configured to add a different time-varying compensation signal to each of at least two respective image signals of at least two sensors of the array of sensors so as to provide at least two adjusted image signals. --

Contact Information

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Nghiem whose telephone number is (571) 272-2277. The examiner can normally be reached on M-H from 6:30AM – 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached at (571) 272-2269. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



**MICHAEL NGHIEM
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Michael Nghiem

November 16, 2004